

FACT SHEET FOR NPDES PERMIT WA-000068-0
ALCOA PRIMARY METALS – WENATCHEE WORKS

PERMIT MODIFICATION DATE – NOVEMBER 1, 2001

In July of 2001, Alcoa-Wenatchee requested that several requirements in their NPDES permit be modified during periods of temporary curtailment of smelting operations. The requirements that they requested be modified included: 1) reducing monitoring frequencies at Outfall 001 and at the outfall from the sanitary plant, and 2) reducing the removal efficiency limitation for sanitary plant effluent. These changes constitute a major permit modification which is subject to public notice.

A notice of the proposed changes to the permit was published in the Wenatchee World newspaper on September 14, 2001 with a 30-day public comment period. No comments were received.

In order to have some flexibility to review permit modification requests for periods of temporary curtailment on a case-by-case basis, Ecology decided to modify Alcoa-Wenatchee's NPDES permit as follows:

“During periods of temporary curtailment of smelting operations, the Permittee may petition the Department in writing to reduce or eliminate effluent monitoring and reduce the percent removal effluent limitation for the sanitary treatment facility. Curtailment is defined as the shut down of 90% or more of potline operations. Upon start up of the curtailed smelting operations, all NPDES requirements shall revert to those in the current permit.”

Ecology will review individual permit modification requests and make a determination in writing back to the Permittee.